

A year and a half later, on the day of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese Army entered Thailand. A powerful faction within the Thai Government, favoring collaboration, ordered the Thai military not to resist. And later in December, now in full control, they signed a military alliance with Japan.

Their next step was to order Seni by cable to deliver a formal Declaration of War to the U.S. Government. As a patriot and a man of conscience, Seni did not hesitate to do his duty as he saw it. As he recounts the story, he went to the State Department the day after receiving this cable, and told then-Secretary of State Cordell Hull:

Sir, I regret to say that I have been instructed by my government to declare war on the United States. But I refuse to do it because there is no reason, and I have already cut myself loose from Bangkok. I cannot bring myself to declare war on the United States.

Seni placed the Declaration of War in a safe at the Embassy on Kalorama Road, where it remained for the rest of the war. He refused further to leave the Embassy when the ruling faction in Bangkok ordered him to do so. And instead, he devoted himself to the Allied cause, writing every Thai student in the United States to announce his decision to form a resistance force called the Seri Thai or Free Thai movement.

Virtually all of the 110 Thai students in the United States at the time joined the Seri Thai. Seventy of them trained under the OSS as guerrilla fighters. Others served as technical experts. Some carried out broadcasts in the Thai language. Still others helped American military authorities to identify sites of great cultural and historical value to Thailand, in order to preserve them from Allied bombing raids toward the end of the war.

The Seri Thai movement was equally successful inside Thailand. Inspired by Seni's wartime broadcasts, and trained by his student recruits, it ultimately armed about 50,000 Thai partisans. And following the Japanese surrender, Seri Thai formed the first postwar government, with Seni himself as Prime Minister.

Seni's career since then has been just as distinguished. He was a founder of the Prachatipat or Democrat Party—now Thailand's oldest political party, and ably led by Prime Minister Chuan. He has been, as well, a highly successful lawyer and musician; and Prime Minister once again in the 1970's.

Altogether, it is no exaggeration to say that for the past 60 years, Seni has been at the center of Thai law and politics. And his sincere commitment to democracy, moderation, and the rule of law has helped Thailand become the prosperous democracy so many people around the world admire today.

In a letter to President Franklin Pierce, written in 1856 and reprinted in the book "A King of Siam Speaks," which Seni and his brother Kukrit Pramoj edited some years ago, King

Rama IV expressed the hope that the United States and Thailand would forever regard one another with "friendship and affection," and support one another in times of difficulty. And nearly 150 years later, few have done more to make the King's hope a reality than Seni Pramoj.

All American friends of Thailand join in wishing M.R. Seni Pramoj best wishes as his 90th birthday approaches. And we thank him for a service to both our countries which we will not forget.

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#### IN HONOR OF FRANK E. RODGERS, RETIRING MAYOR OF HARRISON, NJ

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, on December 31, 1994, a very special man, Frank E. Rodgers, served his last day as mayor of Harrison. After 48 years of public service, Mayor Rodgers is being honored for his life-time commitment to the citizens of Harrison, NJ.

Mayor Frank Rodgers won his first term as mayor of Harrison after the war in 1946 and began the distinguished career that would make him the longest-serving mayor in the history of the United States. Epitomizing the old adage that all politics is local, Mayor Rodgers campaigned door-to-door all 24 times he sought reelection and maintained an open-door policy at town hall.

In addition to his time as mayor, Frank Rodgers held a variety of elected and appointed jobs in government, including 6 years from 1977 to 1983 as a State Senator and 10 years as a town councilman. Frank's service in the Army during World War II did not interfere with his commitment to public service; he was reelected as a councilman while in basic training at Fort Dix and managed town affairs through calls and letters to his wife and family while working as a military intelligence officer on assignment along the east coast.

Diligence, dedication, and a true commitment to his constituency were the hallmarks of Frank Rodgers' career. In his retirement letter to the residents of Harrison, Frank wrote, "I believe our years together hint at a mutual respect and caring that goes far beyond the requirements of governing." Frank Rodgers possessed both the insight to know what it means to govern and the willingness to devote himself wholeheartedly to the task. While his retirement will be a great loss to those who have worked with him and for those he has served, he has left an exemplary legacy of excellence in public service.

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#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the Senate is now considering an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This is not a usual matter and ought not be treated as such. Changing the U.S. Constitution is a very solemn responsibility, and those who wrote the Constitution made changing it very difficult, by design.

I have in my hand a copy of the Constitution. This is a little booklet put out by the bicentennial group that worked on a program to educate the American people about the Constitution. The Constitution begins, as all Americans know, "We the people of the United States." "We the people."

I was privileged to go to a celebration in Philadelphia about 8 years ago or so. It was the 200th birthday of the signing of the Constitution. The birthday, the 200th anniversary, was held in the very same room in Philadelphia, called "The Assembly Room," in Constitution Hall, the same room where the Constitution was written in the first place 200 years previous, when 55 white, largely overweight, men sat in a very hot Philadelphia room in the summer and wrote a constitution.

We know that because we know who they were. Two-hundred years later fifty-five people, men and women of all races went back into that room to recreate in celebration the writing of that Constitution. I was one who was picked to be among the 55. And to go into that room on the 200th anniversary of the date of the writing of this Constitution was pretty special. George Washington's chair is still at the front of the room, the chair he sat in when he was presiding, and Franklin sat over there.

It was very remarkable to be in this room where they wrote this Constitution. Even more remarkable was that it was written over 200 years ago by patriots, by people who cared deeply for this country, but also by a homogenous group of people, only white men who came from various parts of the colonies to join in that room and write this document.

We have come a long way. Two-hundred years later it was a diverse group of men and women of all races who celebrated. I sat there kind of getting some goose bumps about the history of it all. I thought: as a little boy I grew up studying about George Washington